DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 419 231 CS 013 200

AUTHOR	Calkins, Lucy; Bellino, Lydia
TITLE	Raising Lifelong Learners: A Parent's Guide.
ISBN	ISBN-0-201-12749-0
PUB DATE	1997-00-00
NOTE	331p.
AVAILABLE FROM	Harper Collins, 1000 Keystone Industrial Park, Scranton, PA 18512; toll-free phone: 800-242-7737 ($24).
PUB TYPE	Guides - Non-Classroom (055)
EDRS PRICE	Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS	*Active Learning; *Child Rearing; Elementary Education; *Family Environment; Individual Development; Language Arts; *Lifelong Learning; *Parent Child Relationship; *Parent Participation; Parent Role; Parent Teacher Cooperation; Parents as Teachers; Preschool Education
IDENTIFIERS	*Learning Environments

ABSTRACT

Based on the idea that parents are their children's first and most important teachers, this book gives practical suggestions for how parents can best nurture the qualities of initiative, thoughtfulness, curiosity, resourcefulness, perseverance, and imagination that are fundamental to all that children will do and become in their lives. Drawing upon the influential philosophy of active learning, the book shows parents how to create a literate environment at home that will support their children's skills as emerging readers, writers, mathematicians, scientists, and historians. Parents should show children their own love of books and they should create homes where children learn with enthusiasm as they play games, do chores, or talk about their day--this provides the foundation for a lifelong love of learning. There are chapters on talk as a foundation for literacy, on early reading and writing, and on reading and writing in the middle childhood years. The book's final section provides parents with knowledge and information about how to be co-creators of their children's school experiences. Appendixes consider how to pick a preschool; what to know about a curriculum; reading in school; testing and assessment in classrooms; how to build a partnership with a child's teacher; and the importance of parent involvement. (NKA)

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